

Mariah Matheson (Research)

From: Todd Miller [toddm@nccoast.org]
Sent: Friday, April 02, 2010 9:47 AM
To: Tim Dodge (Research); pricey harrison
Cc: Dr. Daniel Phaneuf; Dr. Dolores Eggers; Dr. Ed Erickson; Dr. Godfrey Uzochukwu; Dr. Richard "Pete" Andrews; Dr. Ryan Boyles; Dr. Stanley R. Riggs; Dr. Stephen A. Smith; Mr. Bob Glaser; Mr. Daniel Crawford; Mr. George T. Everett; Mr. Ivan Urlaub; Mr. John Garrou; Mr. Michael Regan; Mr. Mitchell A. Peele; Mr. Preston Howard; Mr. Robert W. Slocum, Jr.; Mr. S. Lewis Ebert; Mr. Tim Toben; Mr. Tom Cecich; Ms. Caroline Choi; Ms. Susan Tompkins; Rep. Alice Underhill; Rep. Becky Carney; Rep. Lucy T. Allen; Rep. Pricey Harrison; Rep. Winkie Wilkins; Sen. Charlie Albertson; Sen. Jim Jacumin; Sen. Josh Stein; The Honorable Charles Thomas; Todd Wooten; Thelma Utley (Rep. Marvin Lucas); Ted Harrison (Senate LA Office); Jeffrey Hudson (Research); Jennifer Mundt (Research); Jennifer McGinnis (Research); Mariah Matheson (Research); Susan Iddings (Bill Drafting); Lanier McRee (Fiscal Research)
Subject: Re: LCGCC - Draft legislative proposals; draft minutes; updated report forthcoming
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Yellow
Attachments: The Future of Our Beaches1.doc; ATT977642.htm

Dear Tim:

Due to previous schedule conflict, I won't be able to attend the Commission meeting next week. I wanted to offer a few suggestions for the Commission to consider regarding two of the proposed bills that you have circulated.

These include:

1. NC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy: I applaud this proposed bill. I would recommend several minor changes including:
 - a. Page 2, Lines 40-41: Develops an inventory of existing federal, state, or local programs and plans that **directly or indirectly** address adaption to climate change.
 - b. Page 2, Lines 42: Identifies needed changes to existing **federal, state, and local programs and** planning tools....
 - c. Page 2, Lines 46-51: **Add the following programs: National Flood Insurance Program, FEMA disaster relief**
 - d. Page 3, Line 1: Identifies needed changes to **Federal and State** policies....
 - e. Page 4, Line 49-50: **Add new consideration: (22) Evaluating the 21 policy proposals developed through the Beach Management Summit of 2009 to assist oceanfront communities to adapt climate change in the coming decades.**

Explanation of suggestions: Within the coastal zone, North Carolina through its federally approved Coastal Management Plan can have significant influence over federal programs as well as state programs. Both federal and state programs are currently very intertwined and heavily influence the state's response to climate change along the coast. An adaption strategy that does not take a comprehensive look at the full array of federal and state programs that determine what we do along the coast will not be effective. The 21 Beach Summit recommendations made last year are supported by a very diverse set of stakeholder (see attached recommendations that were previously submitted to the Commission) and provide a good head start on developing a strategy to help oceanfront communities to adapt to climate changes.

2. Study Carbon Offsets and Carbon Sequestration: Again, I strongly support this proposal and suggest a few minor changes:
 - a. Page 1, Lines 2-10: AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES, THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO EVALUATE THE CARBON SEQUESTRATION POTENTIAL OR NORTH CAROLINA'S AGRICULTURAL LANDS, FORESTLANDS, **AND** OTHER WORKING LANDSCAPES, **AND COASTAL WATERS**; TO STUDY OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP CARBON OFFSETS WITHIN THE STATE; AND TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND ADVISABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A CARBON OFFSET PROGRAM IN THE STATE.....
 - b. Page 2, Lines 4-6: The carbon sequestration or reduced emission potential of the agricultural, forestlands, **and** other working landscapes, **and coastal waters** in the State from the following practices:
 - c. Page 2, Line 17: **Add: Preserving and restoring coastal salt marshes, sea grass beds, oyster reefs, and other fisheries habitats.**

Explanation of suggestions: Last fall the United Nations Environment Programme issued a report entitled: Blue Carbon: The Role of Healthy Oceans in Binding Carbon. I previously submitted a copy of this report to the Commission for its record. The report highlights the critical role of coastal estuaries play in mitigating climate change, and outlines huge opportunities to use protection and restoration of coastal estuarine

habitats (salt marshes, sea grass beds, oyster reefs, etc.) as a strategy to mitigate climate changes. North Carolina's coast could reap enormous economic and environmental benefits from pursuing the recommendations of this report, and this proposed bill provides a mechanism to begin looking at the potential of our coast to help mitigate climate change.

Thanks for considering these suggestions.

With best regards,

Todd